



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
ALPHA BATTERY, 1ST BATTALION, 19TH FIELD ARTILLERY  
5960 ROTHWELL STREET  
FORT SILL, OK, 73503-6202

ATSF-KF-A

2 July 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR: Commander, Alpha Battery, 1ST Battalion, 19TH Field Artillery

SUBJECT: Graduation Letter, Class #41-18

Dear Friends and Family Members,

The Soldiers of Alpha Battery are proving their toughness every day. They are motivated, fit, knowledgeable, and ready to graduate! Before they do, however, there are still a couple more weeks of rigorous training.

This is the time of the cycle when families are anxious to make their travel plans to see their Soldier graduate. This letter provides you with useful information in order to make your travel plans. **Please do not make any travel arrangements without purchasing insurance for flights, lodging, or any other accommodations.** It never fails that at least one family is caught off guard due to their Soldier not graduating because of an injury, misconduct, or failing to meet all graduation requirements in the final two weeks of training. The Battery cadre will force Soldiers, which are not on the path to graduate, to contact those who would journey to see them the moment we have identified they are ineligible or highly likely to be ineligible to graduate with the class due to missed or failed training. No news is good news in this regard.

While you are here at Fort Sill, we ask that you help us to preserve our training environment. Please wear appropriate attire, as Family Day and Graduation are formal ceremonial events. There is no dress code, but vulgar, distasteful slogans or indecent exposures are not acceptable on the installation and will result in visitors being barred entry into the Cache Creek Community Chapel and other facilities on the installation.

All personally-owned vehicles are subject to search by Fort Sill Police. Personally owned firearms are not allowed on Fort Sill or at the graduation facility. Large bags, parcels, and backpacks are not permitted at these events. Use of cellular phones while driving on Fort Sill is strictly prohibited. Please cooperate with these safety measures.

Due to security measures, access to Fort Sill is limited to Department of Defense card holders (The V.A.-issued identification card no longer meets the criteria for installation access) and those individuals who have received a post pass from the Fort Sill Visitor Control Center (VCC). Go to <http://sill-www.army.mil/vcc/> for instructions on access to Fort Sill, or go to the Visitor Control Center yourself prior to, to attain a post pass. Failing to do so causes entry to Fort Sill to get delayed and/or denied. Digital copies of

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the Welcome letter, Graduation letter, and VCC Visitor Request Form can additionally be found online at <http://sill-www.army.mil/434/1-19/alpha/>.

Due to the impacts of the Real ID Act, some state ID card holders will require a second form of identification to access the installation. Further information regarding your specific state ID and valid forms of a secondary ID can be located at <https://www.dhs.gov/real-id>.

Soldiers who are in a **graduating status** are authorized local passes in the Lawton/Ft. Sill area as long as they are in good standing with the battery. Soldiers who **are not** in a graduating status (i.e. pending recycle, medical holds, pending separation) may be **granted on-post or 434<sup>th</sup> FA Brigade Area** passes on a case-by-case basis, but those who are not graduating due to misconduct will not be afforded any privilege and will remain in the battery area. Please note that a pass is a privilege that can be revoked if a Soldier is not in good standing with the battery. Pass may be revoked because of visiting family misconduct or inappropriate behavior while visiting the installation. Examples include disrupting the family day or graduation ceremonies, damaging government property, etc.

Soldiers who return late to the battery following the Family Day pass will not be afforded pass following graduation and the battery commander reserves the right to deny the Soldier from walking across the stage on graduation day.

The Family Day Ceremony is conducted on **19 July 2018, at 09:00 A.M.** on the **Alpha Battery Drill Pad, A-Wing, Building 5960 Rothwell St., Fort Sill, OK 73503**. Family Day highlights your Soldier's achievements over the basic combat training cycle through a series of demonstrations on weapons, physical fitness, tactics, as well as drill and ceremony. Upon completion, the cadre will reiterate the information included in this letter regarding the pass policies for Family Day and Graduation, to include any additional information that may need to be provided at the time of the ceremonies. After the family day demonstration, all graduating Soldiers will enjoy an off post pass with their family until 8:00 P.M.

The Graduation Ceremony begins on **20 July 2018, at 10:00 A.M.** at the **Cache Creek Chapel, 6043 Rothwell Street, Lawton, OK 73503**. During the ceremony, please feel free to take pictures of your Soldiers during graduation. The graduating class is seated together and will not have an opportunity to socialize during this time. Livestreaming is available for the graduation ceremony for those who are unable or incapable to travel to the installation for the event. The livestream can be accessed through the [www.FiresCenterLiveEvents.com](http://www.FiresCenterLiveEvents.com).

Immediately following graduation, Soldiers will be released to go on pass from the Cache Creek Community Chapel. **Do not return to the battery area after the graduation ceremony.** 13 series Soldiers immediately ship to 1-78 FA BN for their AIT. The families and friends of 13 series Soldiers need to attend a brief to sign their Soldier out on pass at 1-78 FA BN Headquarters' located at (BLDG 2735 Bragg Street,

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Fort Sill, OK 73503). 14 series Soldiers ship to 30<sup>th</sup> ADA BDE located at (BLDG 4402 Blair Street, Fort Sill, OK 73503).

The following is a list of activities that are not authorized for the Soldiers while they are on pass:

- Get body alterations i.e. tattoos, piercings, etc.
- Drive or operate a privately owned vehicle
- Walk and talk on a cell phone
- Perform overt public displays of affection i.e. no kissing and cuddling in public
- Change out of their uniform for any reason
- Engage in sports activities
- Purchase pornographic materials or frequent strip clubs / adult establishments
- Purchase or use alcohol or tobacco products
- Frequent establishments that primarily sell alcohol i.e. No bars or saloons; restaurants with a bar are acceptable, but the Soldier cannot sit at the bar
- Frequent Casinos or participate in gambling activities (Soldiers are allowed to be in a hotel attached to a casino)
- Leave the greater Lawton/Ft. Sill area

Additionally, Soldiers and their families must not make purchases of any items that cannot be packed and transported in the Soldier's military issued baggage along with their required equipment. Soldiers will be inspected upon returning to the battery after pass and items that are inappropriate or are unable to be secured in their allotted space will not be allowed into the battery area at the Soldier's expense. The government will not pay for additional baggage or items to be transported when they ship to their next unit.

I hope you enjoy your visit to the Lawton/Fort Sill Area. Lawton/Fort Sill offers a vast array of attractions. As you may know, Fort Sill is located in southwest Oklahoma and is surrounded by the Wichita Mountains. If you take a drive through the Wichita Mountains, you can visit several tourist sites, such as the Holy City and the Wildlife Refuge Center. On Fort Sill, you can tour Geronimo's Guard House and Gravesite, the Old Post Quadrangle Museum, and the U.S. Army Field Artillery Museum. Information about local hotels and restaurants in the Lawton/Fort Sill are available at

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<http://lawtonfortsillchamber.com/>. Additional information can be found at <http://sill-www.army.mil/INDEX/maps/> and <http://sill-www.army.mil/>.

Timelines:

**Family Day:** 19 July 2018

8:30 A.M.-9:00 A.M.	Arrival for Family Day Activities
9:00 A.M.-10:00 A.M.	Family Day Ceremony
10:00 A.M.-8:00 P.M.	Pass Privileges
8:00 P.M.	Accountability Formation

Timelines:

**Graduation:** 20 July 2018

9:30 A.M.-10:00 A.M.	Doors Open and Seating
10:00 A.M.-11:00 A.M.	Graduation Ceremony
11:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.	13/14 MOS Return to Battery
11:00 A.M.- 8:00 P.M	Pass Privileges
8:00 P.M.	Accountability Formation

For any additional questions or concerns please visit our website at <http://sill-www.army.mil/434/1-19/alpha/>. On behalf of the Battery's Cadre and Drill Sergeants, we look forward to meeting you and hope you enjoy your Soldier's graduation. Assassins!

RAYMOND G. FLETCHER  
CPT, FA  
Commanding